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09/804,246	03/13/2001	Yasuhide Matsumoto	1573.1003	9130
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STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER BARQADLE, YASIN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2153	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/804,246

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Yasin M. Barqadle

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed on November 28, 2005 have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive.

- Claims 1-30 are pending.

Response to Arguments

In response to applicant's arguments that "table 6 is used only to for sending a notification of the arrival of e-mail." (Page 12, paragraph one). Examiner notes that table 6 (fig. 3) is used for more than the arrival of e-mail. "Notifications are of two kinds: real-time and queued. Real-time notifications are typically from one individual member to another. The notification server 29 is responsible for sending notifications--instant messages--between individuals, and between community organizers and individuals." (Col. 9, lines 13-34). Therefore, nothing precludes using table 6 for instant messages. Furthermore, Bunny teaches several data bases such as group database 7, session database 50 and directory service 37 all stored in server 1.

In response to applicant's argument that "Bunny does not use of the different display names for a user for respective corresponding virtual communication spaces, as disclosed by the present invention as in claim 1." Examiner notes Bunny teaches messaging between individuals or groups using one-to-one and many-to-many chat groups and the opportunity to use a plurality of identities per person along with associated preferences and interests for each identity (col. 2, lines 66 to col. 3, line 16). Furthermore, Bunny teaches "the ability to supply the IRC client with supplemental descriptive information about the chat channel such as for example community organizers (sponsors), organizers/operators, moderators, and a descriptive paragraph about the chat (IRC supports only the name and channel) ... A chat client can send a command to the chat proxy 39, which represents a conversion means, together with the address of the sender (terminal 3 e.g.). The chat proxy 39 contacts the session manager 23 to get a unique nickname with nine characters for the user 3. The session manager 23 accesses the session database 50. This nickname supplied from the session manager 23 to the chat proxy 39 is

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required to be unique only with the current on-line users, it does not need to be unique across time and space. Therefore, a nick can be reused after the user logs out. The nickname is a combination of a host code unique within the network and the sequence ID specific to host and guaranteed to be unique on the host.” (Col. 11, lines 1-43, see also col. 12, lines 8-21). Therefore, Bunny in combination with Okada teach the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the part" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,393,461, hereinafter "Okada") in view of Bunney et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,446,112, hereinafter "Bunney"). Okada discloses a communication management system for a chat system

In referring to claims 1 and 6, Okada shows substantial features of the claimed invention, including:

- A plurality of terminal devices forming a network:

Okada, Figure 2 shows a plurality of terminal devices 110, 120, and 130 forming a network

- Said terminal devices being adapted to transmit and receive messages to and from each other through any of a plurality of virtual communication spaces configured on the network:

Okada, Figure 7 shows the terminals transmit and receive messages to and from each other

- The messages transmitted and received being displayed on display means of each terminal device together with message sender identifying information of persons who send the messages:

Okada, Figure 7 shows the display of the terminal devices

However, Okada is silent as to the full implementation of the chat server. Okada does not explicitly show a table means for storing therein identifiers and corresponding character-train information of persons using said virtual communications spaces. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Okada as evidenced by Bunney.

In analogous art, Bunney discloses an IRC name translation protocol. Bunney shows a table means for storing therein identifiers and corresponding character-train information of persons using said virtual communications spaces: *"The translation and additional information transmission procedure according to the present invention will now be explained with reference to FIG. 5. A chat client can send a command to the chat proxy 39, which represents a conversion means, together with the address of the sender (terminal 3 e.g.). The chat proxy 39 contacts the session manager 23 to get a unique nickname with nine characters for the user 3. The session manager 23 accesses the session database 50. This nickname supplied from the session manager 23 to the chat proxy 39 is required to be unique only with the current on-line users, it does not need to be unique across time and space, Therefore, a nick can be reused after the user logs out. The nickname is a combination of a host code unique within the network and the sequence ID specific to host and guaranteed to be unique on the host. Both codes are alphanumeric to provide maximum flexibility within nine characters. The chat proxy 39 then rewrites the IRC command with the nine-character nickname and sends it to the IRC server 40 (reference 41). On the other hand, the IRC server 40 sends (reference 44) data to the client 20 (which is the reverse procedure of the incoming proxy), wherein the chat proxy (converting means) 39 effects the reverse translation. The chat proxy 39 can cache the translation to prevent performance problems with constant look-up in a storage device (cache) 42."* (Burney, col. 11, lines 25-49)

Burney, Figures 3 and 4 show tables and data bases (7,37 and 50) that, in combination, store in association with each other, identifiers of persons using said virtual communication spaces, identifiers of said virtual communication spaces and corresponding character train information of the persons.

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"As can be seen from the above addresses, the user George X. can have different identities (George, Superman, Max) being respectively member of different groups (compu, sport, game, etc.). Each identity is easy to remember, and as there are different groups of users and one identity is only unique regarding one group, the numbers of interesting identities available for the users can be increased overall." (Bunney, col. 9, lines 41-47)

A means for determining character train, among said character-train information to be used as an identifier of the person is inherently implied in a system that uses part of said character-train information to be used as an identifier of the person (see Col. 11, lines 1-43 and col. 12, lines 8-21).

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Okada so as to use a table with 9 character identifiers and character train-information greater than 9 characters, such as taught by Bunney, in order to overcome the limitation of 9 characters when using IRC as the chat protocol.

In referring to claim 2, Okada in view of Bunney shows,

- Said table stores different character-train information for the identifier of a given person for use in respective, different ones of said virtual communication spaces:

Bunney, col. 9, lines 41-47 (see full quote above)

In referring to claim 4, Okada in view of Burney shows,

- Said terminal devices use said table in common:

A system in which the users have the character-train information displayed on their individual terminals (see Okada, Figure 7) inherently implies said terminal devices using said table means in common

In referring to claim 5, Okada in view of Burney shows,

- The character-train information stored in said table is accessible from said respective terminal devices:

Okada, Figure 7 shows the character-train information stored in said table means is accessible from said respective terminal devices

In referring to claim 7, Okada in view of Burney shows,

- Said network is formed of said plurality of terminal devices and a server:

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Okada, Figure 2 shows a plurality of terminal devices 110, 120, and 130, and a server 141 forming a network

- Character-train information to be stored in said table means is set in said server: A chat server that receives messages from users associated with character-train information inherently implies storing said character-train information on said chat server

In referring to claim 8, Okada in view of Burney shows,

- Said message sender identifier is converted into the character-train information at the terminal device, which receives the message:

Okada, Figure 7 shows the character-train information is displayed on the terminal devices which inherently implies that the user identifier information is converted on the terminal device

As to claim 9 the invention, includes:

- A server:

Okada, Figure 2 shows a chat server 141

- A plurality of terminal devices forming a network with said server:

Okada, Figure 2 shows a plurality of terminal devices 110, 120, and 130 forming a network with said server 141

- Said terminal devices being adapted to transmit and receive messages to and from each other through any of a plurality of virtual communication spaces configured on the network:

Okada, Figure 7 shows the terminals transmit and receive messages to and from each other

- The messages transmitted and received being displayed on display means of each terminal device together with message sender identifying information of persons who send the messages:

Okada, Figure 7 shows the display of the terminal devices

However, Okada is silent as to the full implementation of the chat server. Okada does not explicitly show a table means *for* storing therein identifiers and corresponding character-train information and a search means for looking up said character train information. Nonetheless this

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feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Okada as evidenced by Bunney.

In analogous art, Bunney discloses an IRC name translation protocol. Bunney shows a table means for storing therein identifiers and corresponding character-train information and a search means for looking up said character train information: *Bunney, col. 11, lines 25-49* (see full quote above)

Bunney, Figures 3 and 4 show tables and data bases that, in combination, store in association with each other, identifiers of persons using said virtual communication spaces, identifiers of said virtual communication spaces and corresponding character train information of the persons. *Bunney, col. 9, lines 41-47* (see full quote above)

A means for determining a character train among said character-train information to be used as an identifier of the person is inherently implied in a system that uses part of said character-train information to be used as an identifier of the person. Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Okada so as to use a table with 9 character identifiers and character train-information greater than 9 characters, such as taught by Bunney, in order to overcome the limitation of 9 characters when using IRC as the chat protocol.

In referring to claims 10, 14, 15, 19, 22, and 25, Okada in view of Bunney shows:

- Said table stores different character-train information for the identifier of a given person for use in respective, different ones of said virtual communication spaces:

Bunney, col. 9, lines 41-47 (see full quote above)

- Said sender identifier and message are transmitted through a designated one of said virtual communication spaces:

A chat system that sends messages to receivers in a specific channel (see Okada, Figure 7) inherently implies the receivers are designated when the message is initially sent

- Said search means searches said table for the character-train corresponding to the designated virtual communication space and sender identifier:

A means for looking up character-train information associated with a user is inherently implied in a system that associates user information with character-train information with each user and displays said character-train information with a message

In referring to claim 11, Okada in view of Bunney shows,

- Said sender identifiers with messages are transmitted with receivers of said messages designated:
A chat system that sends messages to receivers in a specific channel (see Okada, Figure 7) inherently implies the receivers are designated when the message is initially sent
- Said table has stored therein said identifiers and corresponding character-train information for respective message receivers:

A table means for storing identifiers and corresponding character-train information of users is inherently implied in a chat system that has character-train information associated with users

- Said search means searches for the character-train information corresponding to the message sender and the message receiver:
A means for looking up character-train information associated with a user is inherently implied in a system that associates user information with character-train information with each user and displays said character-train information with a message

In referring to claim 16, Okada in view of Burney shows,

- Said sender identifiers with messages are transmitted with receivers of said messages designated:
A chat system that sends messages to receivers in a specific channel (see Okada, Figure 7) inherently implies the receivers are designated when the message is initially sent
- Said table has stored therein said identifiers and corresponding character-train information for respective message receivers:
A table means for storing identifiers and corresponding character-train information of users is inherently implied in a chat system that has character-train information associated with users
- Said search means searches for the character-train information corresponding to the message sender and the message receiver:
A means for looking up character-train information associated with a user is inherently implied in a system that associates user information with character-train information with each user and displays said character-train information with a message

In referring to claim 17, Okada in view of Burney shows,

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- Said sender identifiers with messages are transmitted with receivers of said messages designated: A chat system that sends messages to receivers in a specific channel (see Okada, Figure 7) inherently implies the receivers are designated when the message is initially sent
- Said table has stored therein said identifiers and corresponding character-train information *for* respective message receivers:

A table means *for* storing identifiers and corresponding character-train information of users is inherently implied in a chat system that has character-train information associated with users

- Said search means searches for the character-train information corresponding to the message sender and the message receiver:

A means for looking up character-train information associated with a user is inherently implied in a system that associates user information with character-train information with each user and displays said character-train information with a message

In referring to claim 20, Okada in view of Burney shows,

- The identifier and a message of a message sender are transmitted with receivers of said message designated:
A chat system that sends messages to receivers in a specific channel (see Okada, Figure 7) inherently implies the receivers are designated when the message is initially sent
- Said table means has stored therein said identifiers and character-train information corresponding to said identifiers to be used in relation to respective message receivers: A table means for storing identifiers and corresponding character-train information of users is inherently implied in a chat system that has character-train information associated with users
- Said search means searches for the character-train information corresponding to the message sender and the message receiver:
A means for looking up character-train information associated with a user is inherently implied in a system that associates user information with character-train information with each user and displays said character-train information with a message

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In referring to claim 23, Okada in view of Bunney shows,

- The identifier and a message of a message sender are transmitted with receivers of said message designated:
A chat system that sends messages to receivers in a specific channel (see Okada, Figure 7) inherently implies the receivers are designated when the message is initially sent
- Said table means has stored therein said identifiers and character-train information corresponding to said identifiers to be used in relation to respective message receivers: A table means for storing identifiers and corresponding character-train information of users is inherently implied in a chat system that has character-train information associated with users
- Said search means searches for the character-train information corresponding to the message sender and the message receiver:
A means for looking up character-train information associated with a user is inherently implied in a system that associates user information with character-train information with each user and displays said character-train information with a message

In referring to claim 26, Okada in view of Burney shows,

- The identifier and a message of a message sender are transmitted with receivers of said message designated:
A chat system that sends messages to receivers in a specific channel (see Okada, Figure 7) inherently implies the receivers are designated when the message is initially sent
- Said table means has stored therein said identifiers and character-train information corresponding to said identifiers to be used in relation to respective message receivers: A table means for storing identifiers and corresponding character-train information of users is inherently implied in a chat system that has character-train information associated with users
- Said search means searches for the character-train information corresponding to the message sender and the message receiver: A means for looking up character-train information associated with a user is inherently implied in a system that associates user information with character-train information with each user and displays said character-train information with a message

In referring to claim 28, Okada in view of Bunney shows,

- Said network comprises a plurality of terminal devices and one server, and said memory is provided in said server:
Okada, Figure 2 shows a plurality of terminal devices 110, 120, and 130 and a server 141 forming a network. A computer 140 that runs a chat server 141 inherently implies memory

In referring to claim 29, Okada in view of Burney shows,

- Said memory is provided in each of said terminal devices:
Okada, Figure 2 shows the chat clients 110a, 120b, and 130c run on computers 110, 120, and 130, which inherently imply memory

In referring to claim 30, Okada in view of Bunney shows,

- Said converting means is provided in each of said terminal devices:
Okada, Figure 7 shows the character-train information is displayed on the terminal devices which inherently implies that the user identifier information is converted on the terminal device

In referring to claim 3, although Okada in view of Burney shows substantial features of the claimed invention, including the system of claim 1, Okada in view of Burney does not explicitly show said table means contains different character-train information for the identifier of a same person for use in communications with different persons. Nonetheless this is well known in the art and would have been an obvious use of the system of Okada in view of Bunney.

The chat system of Okada in view of Burney does not prevent users from creating different usernames for use in different virtual spaces thereby causing the table to contain different character-train information for the identifier of a same one person for use in communications with different persons, in order to allow the user to remain anonymous to a first person in a first chat channel while simultaneously using character-train information that identifies the user to a second person in a second chat channel.

Conclusion

ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

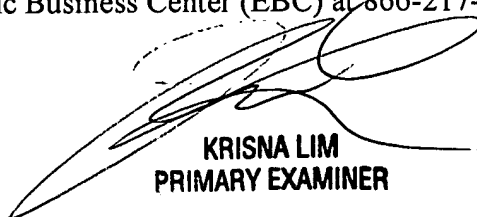
The prior made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Barqadle whose telephone number is 571-272-3947. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PAIR system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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PRIMARY EXAMINER